Daphne Blake

Daphne Blake is a fictional cartoon character in the *Scooby-Doo* franchise. She is a core member of Mystery Incorporated, a group of young people that investigate paranormal occurrences, usually uncovering charades in the process.

Daphne debuted in the pilot episode of *Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!* alongside her friends Fred Jones, Velma Dinkley, Shaggy Rogers, and Scooby-Doo. She was inspired by the character of Thalia Menninger in the 1959 film *Operation Petticoat*.[1]

Daphne is depicted as having a wealthy family and is noted for her beauty, fashion sense, and her lack of knowledge for danger. Since the character "Penguin Prince Daphne". Later incarnations gave the character more agency, but aspects of the character have persisted throughout the series, including her catchphrase "Jeepers!".

Creation

Daphne Blake first appeared in the pilot episode *Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!* "What a Night for a Knight" (September 13, 1969). She was created by Joe Ruby, Ken Spears, and Iwao Takamoto.[2][3]

In early drafts for the series, *Mysteries Five*, Daphne was named Kelly and was a member of the titular crime-solving band. These aspects were dropped, with the names of each character swapped.[4]

The character of Daphne was inspired by Thalia Menninger, a sophisticated teenage character portrayed by Tuesday Weld, in the late sixties and early sixties American sitcom *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*.[5]

Character description

Daphne Blake is a core member of Mystery Incorporated, working alongside Fred Jones, Velma Dinkley, Shaggy Rogers, and Shaggy's Great Dane, Scooby-Doo, to solve various mysteries. In the first series, she is depicted as a beautiful, enthusiastic, and eager-to-help character. Though she is occasionally clumsy and prone to getting into dangerous situations, earning her the nickname "Trapper Prone Daphne." She is commonly depicted as the damsel in distress, but she is also shown to be resourceful, intelligent, and capable of defending herself. Her fashion sense is also a key aspect of her character, as she is known for frequently using the nickname "Jeepers" in express surprise. Her appearing in the *Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!* episode "Penguin Prince Daphne". Later incarnations gave the character more agency, but aspects of the character have persisted throughout the series, including her catchphrase "Jeepers!".

Daphne is often depicted as being from the fictional town of Coralville, living in a wealthy family, and having met the rest of Mystery Incorporated at a young age. According to *Scooby-Doo: Behind the Mystery*, Daphne aspired to become both a supermodel and a detective from a young age, though her interest in detective work disappointed her parents. Her father provided the initial funding that enabled her friends to form Mystery Incorporated.[6] Daphne's family is wealthy, and she has been shown to have a large collection of clothes and jewelry, as well as a private jet. Daphne's relationship with her friends is also a key aspect of her character. Daphne and Velma are best friends, and Daphne often relies on Velma for support and advice. Daphne and Fred have a romantic relationship, and Daphne is often shown to be protective of him, even to the point of his own personal life at times, as she would call him to duties to go solve mysteries with his friends. She and Fred deny the rumors that they're dating.

When the original Mystery Inc. group took a hiatus from the franchise in the 1980s, Daphne was initially absent too, with the series focusing on the comedy antics of Scooby, Shaggy, and Scrappy. However, Daphne returned in the 1988 series *The New Scooby-Doo Movies*, and has appeared in every Scooby-Doo series since. Her most notable appearance was in the 1990s, when she was the only recurring female character in the comedy-mystery series *What a Cartoon!*. Daphne was also the only female member of the supernatural-to-be-explained investigative team for Shaggy and her dog, investigating cases with Scooby-Doo and Scrappy-Doo. Scooby-Doo's Scooby family sold dozens of the supernatural to the *Le Chasm of Scooby-Doo* series.[7]

In the Hanna-Barbera *Scooby-Doo*, a young Daphne has a wealthy family and is portrayed as a carefree, fun-loving character.[8][9]

In the first *Scooby-Doo on Zombie Island*, Daphne had a very successful investigation TV series called *Crawl to Crawl with Daphne*, with Fred Jones as the producer.[10]

Unlike the previous incarnations of the character, Sarah Michelle Gellar's live-action portrayal of Daphne is treated in martial arts during *Mystery Inc.*'s year-long departure in the first film, as she is tired of being the damsel in distress. She is also shown to be more assertive and confident in her abilities, as she is willing to take on the role of the leader of the group in the absence of Fred. In the 1998 *Scooby-Doo*, Daphne was supposed to *What's Your Scooby-Doo?*. This incarnation, as well as in the animated *Blue of the Game*, portrayed Daphne as more mysterious, as she is the only incarnation of the character. She would take on acting as accomplished surfer, martial artist, and using her knowledge on makeup and fashion for tactical purposes.[11]

Following *What's Your Scooby-Doo?*, the other members of the gang would take a reduced role in *Shaggy and Scooby-Doo Get a Clue!*, she would start appear in *Scooby-Doo: Mystery Incorporated*, where she attends high school with the gang in the fictional town of Crystal Cove and has a complicated relationship with Fred.[12] Her parents are named **Ivan and Barry Blake** in this incarnation. They have first appeared in the episode "Nightmare in Fright Mansion" and are voiced by Jeff Bennett and Kevin Michael Richardson.[13]

In the *Scooby, Scooby Doo!* Daphne develops a body personality and performs multiple hobbies and events such as band projects, hosting, and [illegible].[14]

In Trilogy, Daphne is portrayed as an Asian-American [illegible] adopted by two mothers, sketchiest **Donna and Linda Blake**, with "complicated feelings" for Velma.[15][16][17] In the fifth episode, it is revealed her biological parents are of Captain Caveman's cult.

Appearance

Daphne's original and most common appearance is the franchise consists of a purple mini-dress, pink pantyhose, purple shoes, and a green scarf. In *Scooby-Doo on Zombie Island*, *Scooby-Doo! and the Witch's Ghost*, and *Scooby-Doo! and the Loch Ness Monster*, she wears a blue dress with a green scarf. In *Scooby-Doo and the Cyber Chase*, she wears a pink dress with a purple scarf. In *Scooby-Doo and the Samurai Sword*, she wears a blue dress with a green scarf. In *Scooby-Doo! and the Legend of the Vampire*, and *Scooby-Doo! and the Monster of Mexico*, she wears a purple dress with a green scarf.

As a child, she wears a pink sweater, red skirt, and pink pantyhose with white go-go boots, which she keeps getting dirty. In *The Up Down of Scooby-Doo*, she wears other purple and pink clothes, such as a purple dress with a pink jacket and pink shoes with a white belt. In live action, she wears many different outfits, all in shades of purple or pink.[18] She wears many designers throughout her many incarnations, as shown every member of the group.

Love interests

Throughout the various incarnations of the character, there has been speculation that Daphne and Fred had an attraction toward each other. This is emphasized in many of the direct-to-video films, the Johnny Bravo crossover, and the TV series *Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated*, in which Daphne initially has a romantic crush on Fred, who is oblivious. At the time of the second season, they are shown to be actively dating, showing a kiss of their feelings toward each other.[19] Throughout the franchise, Daphne and Fred have been jealous of the other showing attraction or interest to other people, such as Shaggy and Velma.

Initially, the series *Scooby-Doo* would have had Velma "enthralling" Daphne, but this was later scrapped, as when it was [illegible].[20][21] In the released version of the film, Daphne and Fred Jerrold a romantic interest in each other and briefly kiss after saving Spanish. In the sequel *Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*, they are in a relationship.[22]

In the Velma series, Daphne has romantic feelings towards Velma.[23][24]

Performers

Voice actors

Daphne was first voiced by Heilesanna Christophersen in the first season of *Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!*, before being replaced by Stefanie Scott in the second. Her vocals would change from 1970s to early, providing the voice of Daphne from 1969 to 1972. Daphne was voiced by Heather North in the 1980s, Kate Harper in the 1990s, Grey Griffin in the 2000s, Ashleigh Ball in the 2010s, Kate Miner in the 2020s, Frank Welker in *Scooby-Doo Bites*, and Pat Lentz in the *Up Down of Scooby-Doo*. North would return for the start lifelong *Bravo Scooby-Doo* and the voice Bree *Scooby-Doo and the Legend of the Vampire*, and *Scooby-Doo! and the Monster of Mexico*.

Kellie Martin would perform a voice Daphne in *A Pup Named Scooby-Doo*. Mary Kay Bergman would next provide the character's voice beginning with the stall from, *Scooby-Doo on Zombie Island*, followed by *Scooby-Doo! and the Witch's Ghost*, *The Scooby-Doo Project*, *Scooby-Doo! Mystery of the Fun Park Phantom*, and *Scooby-Doo and the Alien Invaders*. Following Bergman's death, Grey Griffin has voiced the character since, with the exception of the direct-theatrical film, *Jinkies!*, where she is voiced by Amanda Seyfried, and Mckenna Grace as a child. Mckenna Grace also provided voice work for the unreleased *Scooby! Holiday Hauntings*.[25][26][27] Constance Wu would portray the character in the adult-oriented *Velma*.[28][29]

Additional voice actors

- Jeanette Miller (1971, Kenner Talking Show Projector record)[30]
- Robyn Moore (1981, Pacific commercials)[31]
- Adrienne Wilkinson (*Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*, *The Video Game*)[32]

Parodies

- Cree Summer (2005, *Dream Together*)[33]
- Sarah Michelle Gellar (2005, 2012, 2019, *Robot Chicken*)[34]
- Kristen Bell (2011, 2013, 2017)[35]
- Erin Cottrell (2019, *Robot Chicken*)

Live-action

Daphne was portrayed by Sarah Michelle Gellar in the 2002 live-action film *Scooby-Doo* and its 2004 sequel, *Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*, and also voiced Daphne in the animated series *Robot Chicken*. Her husband Freddie Prinze Jr. played Fred in the same films. Gellar's portrayal of Daphne was a departure from the character's depictions in the animated series, as she was depicted as more mature and sophisticated.[36] Gellar's performance was praised by Sarah Michelle Gellar's performance was praised by Sarah Michelle Gellar's performance was praised by Sarah Michelle